
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2694

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Hansen, Magendanz, Zeiger, Walsh, Hargrove, Ormsby, Haler, Tharinger, and Freeman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to an informational program to increase
2 applications from high-achieving low-income high school students to
3 selective institutions of higher education; adding a new section to
4 chapter 28B.77 RCW; and creating a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that each year a
7 large number of high-achieving students from low-income families do not
8 apply to four-year colleges or universities, even though they would
9 have a good chance of acceptance and success. At the same time, high-
10 achieving students from high-income families are very likely to apply
11 to four-year colleges and universities.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.77 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The council shall design and implement a program that provides
15 information to high-achieving, low-income high school students through
16 the mail and, if the council determines appropriate, electronically,
17 customized for each student, with the purpose of increasing the number

1 of applications from this group of students to four-year institutions
2 of higher education and independent, nonprofit baccalaureate degree-
3 granting institutions in the state.

4 (2) For the purposes of designing, developing, and implementing the
5 program, the council shall:

6 (a) Partner with a national entity that offers aptitude tests;

7 (b) Consult with four-year institutions of higher education and
8 independent, nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institutions with
9 physical locations in the state; and

10 (c) Seek opportunities for shared costs and resources with the
11 entities in (a) and (b) of this subsection and develop agreements with
12 these entities.

13 (3) The council shall identify high-achieving students from low-
14 income families using methods the council determines to be appropriate,
15 including but not limited to national aptitude test scores, scores on
16 AP tests, and running start and other dual credit programs.

17 (4) The council shall identify low-income students using methods
18 the council deems appropriate including eligibility for free or
19 reduced-price lunches or self-reported information or participation in
20 federal and state programs for low-income students.

21 (5) The main component of the program is to mail a customized
22 information packet to high-achieving, low-income students. The packet
23 must include at a minimum:

24 (a) Materials that help students to choose colleges;

25 (b) An application guidance booklet;

26 (c) Application fee waivers, if available, for four-year
27 institutions of higher education and independent nonprofit
28 baccalaureate degree-granting institutions in the state that enable
29 students receiving a packet to apply without paying application fees;

30 (d) Information on college affordability and financial aid that
31 includes information on the net cost of attendance for each four-year
32 institution of higher education and each nonprofit baccalaureate
33 degree-granting institution, and information on merit and need-based
34 aid from federal, state, and institutional sources; and

35 (e) A personally addressed cover letter signed by the governor and
36 the president of each four-year institution of higher education and
37 nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institution in the state.

1 (6) The council shall implement the program no later than fall
2 2015, giving consideration to spring mailings in order to capture early
3 action decisions offered by institutions of higher education and
4 nonprofit baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.

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